CHAPTER XLVII

THE ROME CONFERENCE

WHEN the Anglo-French Conference met in London on 6th December, 1916 to discuss the terms of the Allied reply to the German and Wilson *Origin and* Peace Notes, I proposed to it that repre- *objects* sentatives of the Governments and of the High Military Commands of Britain, France and Italy should meet together in conference at an early date, in order to have a frank discussion on the whole military and political situation.

There were immediate decisions of great urgency to be taken as to the Balkans, and to suit the convenience of General Sarrail, the Gommander-in-Ghief of the Allied Forces at Salonika, General Milne, the British Commander, and also the Generals in command of the Serbian and Venezelist forces, whose presence at the discussion of the Greek position was desired, it was ultimately arranged that the conference should be held in Rome.

The Rome Conference met on 5th, 6th and 7th January, 1917. I took with me Lord Milner, Sir William Robertson and Sir Maurice *Allied* Hankey. The French Premier, M. Briand> was accompanied by MM. Albert Thomas and Berthelot, and General Lyautey, the new French War Minister. The principal Italian Ministers were present in full force